

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 8313

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJECT: WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG
ABUSE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY. THE PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (PNCB)
AND THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU ORGANIZED THE "FIRST NATIONA
WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE IN
PAKISTAN" IN ISLAMABAD AUGUST 25-30. THIS WAS THE FIRST
GENERAL MEETING HELD IN PAKISTAN OF GOP OFFICIALS AND
PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN DRUG-RELATED PROBLEMS.
THE MEETING RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF PNCB PUBLIC COMMIT-
MENTS AND GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NARCOTICS PROBLEMS.
END SUMMARY.

1. OBSERVERS FROM OUTSIDE PAKISTAN (INCLUDING BOURNE,
BESTEMEN AND LANGER FROM THE US) WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP AND WITH THE BREADTH OF
REPRESENTATION PRESENT. THERE WERE PARTICIPANTS FROM
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LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, SOCIAL

WELFARE AGENCIES, THE LEGAL PROFESSION, ACADEMIA, AGRICULTURE, LABOR, EDUCATION, THE PRESS AND THE MILITARY. DISCUSSION WAS FRANK AND SPIRITED -- OFTEN EXTENDING THE NIMBLE-FOOTED CHAIRMAN OF THE PNCB IN HIS EXPLANATION AND DEFENSE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES. THE PRESS CAREFULLY FOLLOWED THE WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE REPORTED WITH REASONABLE ACCURACY.

2. ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE WORKSHOP, PARTICIPANTS DRAFTED A LIST OF 45 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOP. FIRSTLY, THE WORKSHOP RECOMMENDED THAT AN INTEGRATED APPROACH BE TAKEN INVOLVING ALL DISCIPLINES AND AGENCIES ON THE DRUG PROBLEM. THE WORKSHOP RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE ACTION TOWARDS PILOT PROJECTS FOR TREATMENT, FOLLOW-UP REHABILITATION, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AT THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF QUALIFIED PSYCHIATRISTS; THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIRECTORATE OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION WITHIN THE PNCB; REGISTRATION OF ALL ADDICTS, WITH NON-REGISTERED ADDICTS GIVEN THE OPTION WHEN APPREHENDED OF SUBMITTING TO TREATMENT OR IMPRISONMENT; AND THAT NO OPIUM SHOULD BE SOLD EXCEPT UNDER PRESCRIPTION FROM A QUALIFIED DOCTOR. THE PNCB WAS ASKED TO ORGANIZE SPECIFIC WORKSHOPS ON EDUCATION AND MASS MEDIA IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. THE WORKSHOP ENDORSED THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE BUNER AREA AND THE CONCEPT OF RESEARCH TOWARDS SUBSTITUTE CROPS. IT RECOMMENDED STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF MANUFACTURE OF OPIUM ALKALOIDS IN PAKISTAN. THE WORKSHOP ALSO RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF CONSPIRACY LAWS FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES; A COMPLETE REVIEW OF EXISTING NARCOTICS LAWS WHICH SHOULD DIFFERENTIATE FOR THE FIRST TIME BETWEEN THE ADDICT AND TRAFFICKER; AND MANDATORY MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT FOR THE TRAFFICKER.

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3. COMMENT: WHAT IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP IS THE PAKISTANI (PNCB) ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK-
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SHOP WITH LIMITED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND THE DIVERSE, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION. IT SIGNALS A DOMESTIC CONCERN WITH DRUG ABUSE AND A FXTERMINATION TO MEET THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WHICH THE EMB WAS HERETOFORE NOT SURE EXISTED. THE RECOMMENDATIONS EMINATING FROM THE MEETING, IFACED UPON WHILE THIS INTEREST REMAINS HIGH, PROVIDE A GOOD BASIS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN.

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